

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

1.) Claim Amendments

The Applicants have amended claim 26 and claims 35-46 have been added. Accordingly, claims 1, 3-9, 11-12, 14-17, 19-21, 24-29 and 31-46 are pending in the application. Favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

2.) Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

The Examiner rejected claims 26, 28 and 29 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Marsolais (US 6,088,598). The Applicants respectfully traverse Examiner's conclusion that Marsolais discloses the invention as claimed in claims 26, 28 and 29. On page 3 of the Office Action, the Examiner equates an MSC (and the steps performed thereby) with a zone information transmitter. These two elements perform different functions and interoperate with different components and thus can not be considered equivalent. An MSC is a Mobile Switching Center, the switching center of a mobile phone network. The MSC has interfaces to the base station controllers (BSCs), home location register (HLR), visitor location register (VLR) and other MSCs, not to mobile terminals, as is well known in the art. The zone information transmitter directly transmits data to a mobile terminal as claimed in claims 26, 28 and 29, whereas an MSC does not have the functionality to directly transmit data to a mobile terminal. The MSC routes data through a base station subsystem, which then sends information to the mobile terminal via a base station transceiver. In other words, an MSC is incapable of "receiving a zone information request from a mobile terminal...and wirelessly transmit allocated zone information in a limited transmission area..." as does the zone information transmitter of claim 26.

Further, the functions of an HLR and those of a zone information memory as now claimed in claim 26 are not equivalent. The HLR is a central database that contains details of each mobile phone subscriber that is authorized to use a GSM core network. The HLR stores details of every SIM card issued by the mobile phone operator. The HLR is not located in a mobile terminal, it is located as part of the operator's network.

Claim 26 has been amended to provide that the zone information memory is located in the mobile terminal. Support for this amendment can be found in at least paragraph [0052] of the present application.

Although Marsolais is distinguishable from claims 26, 28 and 29, the Applicants have nevertheless amended independent claim 26 to further distinguish the claimed invention from Marsolais.

Claims 28 and 29 depend from amended claim 26 and recite further limitations in combination with the novel elements of claim 26. Therefore, the allowance of claims 26 is respectfully requested.

3.) Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The Examiner rejected claims 1-6, 8-16, 19-21, 24-26, 28, 29 and 31-34 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Marsolais in view of Novak (US 6,571,103). The Applicants respectfully traverse Examiner's conclusion that Marsolais and Novak disclose or suggest the invention as claimed in claims 1-6, 8-16, 19-21, 24-26, 28, 29 and 31-34.

Regarding claims 1, 2-6 and 8-15, as noted above with respect to Claim 26, the MSC of Marsolais does not perform steps equivalent to those of the zone information transceiver of independent claim 1. For example, the MSC does not transmit information to a mobile terminal. Rather, as noted at column 7, lines 8-26 of Marsolais, the MSC sends commands via a base station (BS) to the MS. As such, an MSC is not "interoperable with the first transmission means" of a mobile terminal. Nor does Novak disclose the steps performed by the claimed zone information transceiver. Hence Marsolais and Novak do not disclose, nor do they suggest, the cited elements of claim 1 and dependent claims 2-6, and 8-15.

Regarding claims 16, 19-21, 24 and 25, as noted above with respect to Claim 26, the steps performed by the MSC of Marsolais are not equivalent to the steps performed by the zone information transceiver of independent claim 16. Nor does Novak disclose the steps performed by a zone information transceiver. Hence Marsolais and Novak do not disclose, nor do they suggest, the cited elements of claim 16 and dependent claims 19-21, 24, 25.

Regarding claims 26, 28 and 29, the Applicants have addressed the rejection of these claims based on Section 102(e), above. The Applicants believe the inclusion of these claims under the Section 103(a) rejection was inadvertent on the part of the Examiner, as a basis for the rejection of claims 26, 28 and 29 under 103(a) was not provided.

Regarding claims 32, 33 and 34, as noted above with respect to Claim 26, the steps performed by the MSC of Marsolais are not equivalent to the steps performed by the zone information transceiver of independent claim 32. Nor does Novak disclose the steps performed by a zone information transceiver. Hence Marsolais and Novak do not disclose, nor do they suggest, the cited elements of claim 32 and dependent claims 33 and 34.

Therefore, the allowance of claims 1-6, 8-16, 19-21, 24-26, 28, 29 and 31-34 is respectfully requested.

The Examiner rejected claims 7 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Marsolais in view of Novak further in view of Alberty, et al. (US 6,178,330). The Applicants respectfully traverse Examiner's conclusion that Marsolais, Novak and Alberty disclose or suggest the invention as claimed in claims 7 and 17. As noted above with respect to Claim 26, the MSC of Marsolais does not perform steps equivalent to those performed by the zone information transceiver of independent claims 1 and 16. For example, the MSC does not transmit information to a mobile terminal. Rather, as noted at column 7, lines 8-26 of Marsolais, the MSC sends commands via a base station (BS) to the MS. Neither Novak nor Alberty disclose all of the steps performed by the zone information transceiver as claimed. Hence Marsolais, Novak and Alberty do not disclose, nor do they suggest, the claims 7 and 17.

Claim 7 depends from claim 1 and recites further limitations in combination with the novel elements of claim 1. Claim 17 depends from claim 16 and recites further limitations in combination with the novel elements of claim 16. Therefore, the allowance of claims 7 and 17 is respectfully requested.

The Examiner rejected claim 27 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Marsolais in view of Pass (US 2004/0078354). The Applicants respectfully traverse Examiner's conclusion that Marsolais and Pass disclose or suggest the

invention as claimed in claim 27. As noted above with respect to Claim 26, the MSC of Marsolais is not equivalent to the zone information transmitter of claim 27. Claim 27 depends from claim 26 and recites further limitations in combination with the novel elements of claim 26. Therefore, the allowance of claim 27 is respectfully requested.

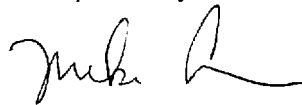
CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing remarks, the Applicants believe all of the claims currently pending in the Application to be in a condition for allowance. The Applicants, therefore, respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw all rejections and issue a Notice of Allowance for claims 1, 3-9, 11-12, 14-17, 19-21, 24-29 and 31-46.

The Applicants request a telephonic interview if the Examiner has any questions or requires any additional information that would further or expedite the prosecution of the Application.

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Respectfully submitted,



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